





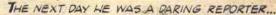
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THAT NIGHT, STILL SMOLDERING FROM THE TAUNTS OF HIS FELLOW WORKERS, TED TRIED TO LOSE HIM-SELF IN THE LATEST HEADLINES.

































OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA OF THE SLASHER. TED HAUNTS THE STREETS LOOKING FOR THE FACE THAT WOULD RESEMBLE HIS SKETCH.





THEN SUDDENLY THE KILLINGS STOPPED.

THE FACT THAT THE SLASHER IS INACTIVE DOESN'T MEAN HE STILL ISN'T AROUND. HE MAY KILL AGAIN SO KEEP ON YOUR TOES

AND TED, NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE USUAL RUN OF HEADLINES, FRETTED RESTLESSLY.

BAH! WHO WANTS TO READ THAT

TRASH? WHY DOESN'T THE

SLASHER KILL AGAIN?

I NEED EXCITEMENT! I HAVEN'T HAD A DATE FOR A LONG TIME ... THINK I'LL GO TO THE GRAND LAND DANCE HALL!













IT WAS TO BE A FABULOUS WEEK-END HOUSE PARTY. BUT INSTEAD OF GAYETY THERE WAS DEATH ... INSTEAD OF LAUGHTER, THERE WAS THE RATTLE OF GHOSTLY BONES ...









RIO AVERY LAWTON WAS HARDLY THE BOY ANN, FRANK AND ROD HAD KNOWN IN COLLEGE, AND AT THAT MOMENT HE WAS WATCHING HIS GUEST ARRIVE...























I WAS NOTHING IN COLLEGE... BUT NOW... NOW I'M
THE WEALTHIEST CHEMICAL MANUFACTURER IN THE
WORLD! EVERYDAY, I AND THE SCIENTISTS I EMPLOY
FIND STRANGE NEW FORMULAE TO CHANGE MEN'S
T LIVES! AND YOU... YOU ARE NOTHING... NOTHING!





OF COURSE YOU'LL STAY! I PROMISE ALL RIGHT, TO SAY NOTHING BUT NICE THINGS ABOUT MY DEAR OLD FRIENDS! PROMISE, AVERY!



AND WHEN THE EVENING CAME TO AN END...





TATER. EXPRESSIONLESS EYES WATCHED FROM THE





















HA!HA! I WAS HAPPY THAT DAY! IT WAS THE

DAY I PERFECTED THE

I HAD A PREMONITION YOU WOULD DO SOMETHING TO

THEM! I REMEMBER THE













S IF REACHING OUT FOR HIM FROM DEATH, ANN KENDALL SEEMED TO BE USING HER FLIMSY EARTH-LY POSSESSION TO BRING AVERY LAWTON INTO THE POOL OF HORROR WITH HIS VICTIMS.



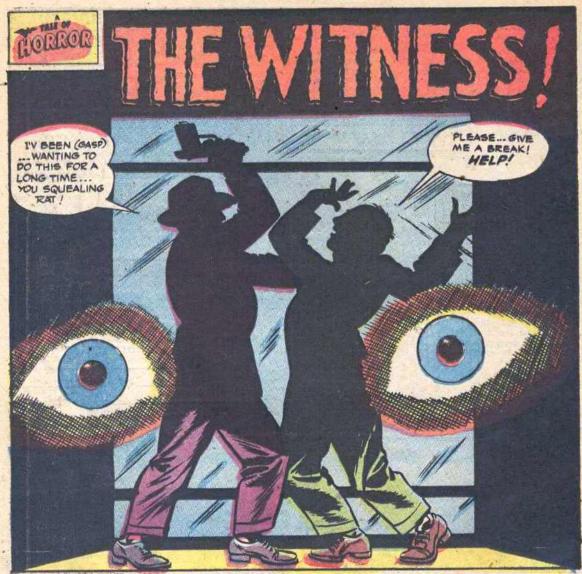
AND A MOMENT LATER, THE HOST HAD COME TO THE

SURFACE OF THE WATER HE HAD SHUNNED EARLIER









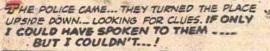
THE GUN THUPPED DOWN, HE CRUMPLED TO THE FLOOR -- BUT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO ...



CHE LAY THERE, DEAD... MY BEST FRIEND! I STRAINED RORWARD, TUGGING WITH ALL MY STRENGTH. IF ONLY I COULD GET AT THE MAN WHO HAD KILLED HIM! BUT I COULD NOT... A QUIETLY, THE MURDERER TIP-TOED OUT...



THAT LAST SCREAM OF NIS KEPT'
RINGING IN MY EARS... BUT OURS
WAS THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LAST
STREET OF A LONEY SUBURB,
OUR NEIGHBORS HAD MOVED TWO
WEEKS AGO...SO NOBODY ELSE
GOULD HAVE HEARD IT... EXCEPT
THE MURDERER AND ME...!
THE NEXT MORNING, MRS DONAGHUE
HUE LET HERSELF IN THROUGH.
THE FRONT DOOR MRS DONAGHUE
WAS THE CLEANING WOMAN...



YEAH, I KNOW THE STIFF.
HIS NAME WAS LOU FALLON...
HE USED TO BE IN THE
RACKETS. HE'D BEEN STOOLPIGEONING FOR A WHILE
NOW SOMEBOOV MUSTIVE
GOTTEN WISE...
R

YOU CAN SAY IT'S
A REGULAR GANG
KILLING, NO SUSPECTS YET, NO
CLUES..... NOTHING!
AND OFF THE'
RECORD, WE GOT AS
MICH CHANCE OF
CATCHING THE MURDERER AS YOU HAVE
OF MARRYING
GRETA GARBO!





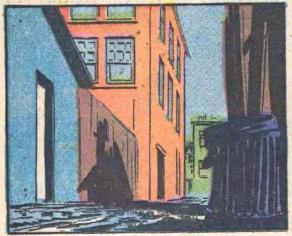




GOING TO DO SOMETHING...!



B KNEW THE MURDERER. AND I KNEW WHERE HE LIVED! I TOOK A SHORT CUT...
THROUGH TWISTING ALLEYS, OVER SPLINTERY FENCES, ALONE JAGGED RAILINGS...



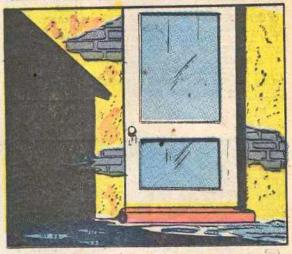
B DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT... SOON A MAN CAME UP THE STREET. HE STOPPED BEFORE THE MURDERER'S HOUSE, AND REACHED IN HIS POCKET FOR HIS KEYS... THE DOOR WAS STILL SWINGING BEHIND HIM WHEN I PUSHED MY WAY THROUGH...



B MADE NOISES OUTSIDE HIS DOOR. I WAITED...
THEN I MADE MORE NOISES... THEN I HEARD HIS
FOOTSTEPS... SLOW, CAUTIOUS, BUT CURIOUS.
THE DOOR OPENED...



THE DOOR OF HIS HOUSE WAS LOCKED! I COULDN'T RING AND I COULDN'T PUSH IT OPEN. I HAD TO WAIT PATIENTLY IN THE SHADOWS...



B KNEW WHICH
WAS THE
MURDERER'S
APARTMENT!
I'D BEEN HERE
LOTS OF
TIMES WHEN
LOU FALLON
WAS STILL IN
THE RACKETS!
TWO FLIGHTS
UP...

BUT IT WAS! I WAS LOU FALLON'S 006! 10 BEEN CHAINED TO THE WALL DURING THE MURDER. BUTTHE DETECTIVE HAD SNAPPED THE CHAIN OFF MY COLLAR AND NOW I WAS FREE TO AVENGE MY BEST FRIEND'S DEATH!



DOORWAY TO DARKNESS

JONAS COREY was a clever man. He was also a hard, ruthless and treacherous man. But you'd never believe that if you saw him. Stout, ruddy-faced, with a twinkle in his eyes, and a smile on his face, Corey looked more like Santa Claus after a shave.

Far into the night, Corey would sit quietly at his old-fashioned rolltop desk. His office was an old warehouse, and his business was as old as crime. He was a

receiver of stolen goods.

Usually, as he sat at his desk and pored over an old ledger filled with meaningless numbers, he would be listening... listening for the stealthy step on the old wooden stairs that led up to his office. Some petty thief would be bringing him a watch, a portable radio or any of the hundreds of stolen items that found their way into his hands. But this night was a special night. He listened with a tense expectancy. Ricky Saunders was coming to visit him.

The word had gone out that Saunders needed him for a special business transaction. Corey did not need to inquire as to its nature when he sent word to Saunders he would be available. He had his own ways for getting information. And the information was that Saunders had the Gilroy

diamonds.

Now Saunders was coming to see him, nine months after the diamonds had been stolen. Corey chuckled, his whole flabby body shaking as he did. Saunders was broke and hunted by the police. That was the condition Corey liked to have his clients in when he dealt with them. And when his plan had been worked out, Saunders would be paid off in death.

Corey looked up from his desk and glanced around the room. At the farther end, partly blocked by several crates which cast a shadow over it, was the door. Opening outwardly into the darkness beyond, it was much like any door leading to another room. But this one lead to an open shaft that once had served the warehouse's elevator.

A stealthy creak of the wooden floor outside the door made Corey turn back to his old ledger. Softly, the doorknob turned. The door opened and someone stepped into the room, shutting the door noiselessly.

Corey did not look up. He was thinking, "A dead man has come to see me . . . only Saunders doesn't know he's dead, yet."

Aloud, Corey said, "You don't have to be

so careful, Saunders."

"You got eyes in back of your head?" Saunders asked in a hoarse voice. "No," Corey replied. "I got ears. This building is so old, I can hear anyone coming up the stairs long before they get here."

"You got a rat trap here," Saunders said.

moving closer to the desk.

Corey swiveled around in his chair and faced his visitor. "Depends on how you look at it." He jerked his thumb toward the back of the room, toward the door. "Take a look that way."

"Saunders' nervous eyes flicked in the indicated direction, then back to Corey.

"A door?"

"That door is another way out of here," Corey smiled. "A trap with two ways of getting out isn't much of a trap, is it."

"Maybe you're not so dumb," Saunders

admitted.

"I heard you coming in from the moment, you entered this building," Corey explained. "Now if it had been a cop—I'd have been gone long before you reached this floor."

"You'd hear a cop a couple of floors

below?" Saunders asked.

"Years of practice ... patience ... training myself to hear and identify every sound. No magic about it," Corey laughed good-naturedly. "I had to develop this trick to stay in business. Cops come here all the time . . . to look around. Long before they're on my floor, I've got all, the hot stuff hidden away."

"Well, I got to admit you've been

around."

"I have. So I'm not afraid of cops."

"Just the same, I'd rather not be around when the coppers pay you a visit," Saunders said, glancing around into the dark corners of the room with a nervous shrug of his shoulders.

"The sooner we get through our business." Corey suggested "the sooner you

can get out."

"Yeh," Saunders replied. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a dirty kerchief bound tightly into a knot. He tossed it to the desk. "That's it."

"The Gilroy Diamonds?"

"All of them," Saunders said, glancing around. "This place gives me the creeps."

Corey did not listen to him. With shaking fingers, he undid the knots and opened the kerchief in front of him. His fat fingers caressed the glittering gems.

caressed the glittering gems.
"The word I got," Saunders said, "was that you'd pay twenty grand for the stuff."

Corey looked up, sharply. "What's that? Twenty grand? Who said that?"

"Here and there, some of your stooges,"

Saunders replied.

Corey snorted contemptuously. A jeweler's glass in his eye, he bent over the precious stones.

"They're the real stuff," Saunders said. "Beautiful," Corey murmured. "But I'll

never be able to get rid of them."

"Do I get the twenty grand or don't I?"
Corey did not reply. He cocked his head
to one side, listening.

"Well?" Saunders asked. "Cut out the

stalling . . ."

Corey held up his hand. "Keep quiet!"
Saunders' eyes turned hard, alert.
"What's up?"

"Anyone follow you here?" Corey asked.

"No. I made sure."

"Someone's coming up the stairs," Corey announced sharply. He listened for a moment. "Two of them!"

"This is an old building. It's full of all

kinds of noises . . ."

"I know every sound in here," Corey said. He knotted the diamonds in the kerchief and pushed it toward Saunders. "Here, take this stuff and get out."

"Give me the dough!" Saunders said. "I don't want the ice." As Corey hesitated, he added, "I came for the dough and I'm get-

ting it."

Corey shook his head, and the next instant found himself staring into the mouth of an automatic.

"All right," Corey said. "But all I'll give

you is ten grand."

Saunders' face turned white with fury. He stared at Corey in bitter silence for a long moment, saying nothing. His eyes filled with hatred.

"Make up your mind," Corey said. "I can hear the footsteps on the second landing. They'll be coming up to this floor in

another minute."

"All right," Saunders said. "Ten grand."
Corey pulled a paper wrapped packet out
of his desk and handed it to Saunders.

"Get out the back way," he said, jerking over his shoulder toward the rear door.

Saunders stuck the gun into his belt. He weighed the packet of money in his hand, thinking. "If you're trying to put something over on me . . . I'll come back."

"I'll be here," Corey replied. "Now get going, and close the door behind you."

Corey turned to the kerchief on his desk. Behind him, he heard Saunders' swift steps across the room. Corey's fingers caressed the stones through the cloth. But his mind was drinking in every sound behind him.

He heard the creak of the hinges as the door was opened . . . he heard the startled gasp . . . the instinctive cry for help as it trailed down and into echoing silence.

He relaxed. The shaft was too deep for

him to hear the thud of Saunders' body landing below. He had no need to hear that. This was not the first man to step off into the shaft . . . not the first who had walked out with a packet of old papers cut deceptively to the size of money . . . not the first to die leaving a fortune in his hands.

Then he heard the sound of footsteps on the stairs. There had been no one there when he tricked Saunders into walking into the elevator shaft. Now there was someone coming up, slowly, painfully. But this was no figment of his imagination.

With swift dexterity, he wrapped up the diamonds and slipped them into a secret compartment in his desk. He turned, a smile on his face as the door opened.

Saunders was standing in the doorway!
Fear twisted the smile from his face!
The chair crashed as he sprang to his feet!
Saunders held out to him the now

opened packet of old newspapers.

Through his shattered, bloody face, Saunders said, "You double-crossed me!"
"A mistake!" Corey cried out. "I gave

you the wrong package!"

"It wasn't no mistake," Saunders said,

advancing toward him slowly.

"I'll give you the cash," Corey pleaded, backing away. "Ten grand! No . . . twenty grand! Cash! In small bills!"

"I said I'll come back!" There was no anger in his voice. "I'm back, Corey!"

Corey backed away, pleading. His mind was working furiously. "My plan didn't work!" he was thinking. "I got to figure something out! Got to gain time!"

Step by step, Corey went back as Saunders advanced on him. The crates were at his elbow now . . . back he went . . . each footstep groping carefully. And then he knew he was near the door of the shaft. He stepped back again and felt the empty space behind him, and fell backwards.

The air rushed past him swiftly. His brain was numb with the knowledge that he was going to die in another instant.

Then he hit the bottom! Strangely, there was no pain, just a dull, clinging softness, against which he felt himself pressing.

Corey could move one hand. He touched another body lying beside him. He was conscious enough to realize that this must

be Saunders!

A happy thought came into his mind. "My plan did work, after all?" His thoughts began to slip away from him. "Saunders is dead here beside me! He couldn't have come upstairs to me!"

He tried to remember who did come to

him upstairs but couldn't.

Then blackness swept over his mind . . .

Samewart!





ACROSS THE SILENT DECKS
SILENT DECKS
CAPTAIN BRIGHTON
LED THE WAY TO CAPTAIN! SOLID, TOO, TILL
THE CREWS QUARTERS.

TIC A CURSED AYE, BO'SUN!
SHIP WE'VE THESE MEN ARE
BOARDED, DEAD! AND FROZEN
CAPTAIN! SOLID, TOO, TILL
WAGER!







SOME UNSEEN CURRENT TURNED THE DERELICT'S BOW. THE MEN OF THE WHALER "HOPE" KNEW ONLY THAT SHE CAME OUT OF THE ICE WITH A DEAD CREW ... THEN TURNED BACK TO VANISH IN THE POLAR MISTS - NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN



SOON REID, LEADER OF A COMMITTEE FROM THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH LEAGUE, FACES SCIENTIST PAUL VALE AT VALE'S LABORATORY ON A TINY ISLAND OFF FLORIDA....

THE ANSWER IS DEFINITELY YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND JOHN I MIX MY SERUM WITH BLOOD BEFORE INJECTING IT, NOT ONLY DOES THE INJECTED ANIMAL GROW AS LONG AS I WISH IT TO ...

BUT THE INJECTED ANIMAL TAKES ON THE CHARACTERISTICS FROM THE ANIMAL FROM WHICH THE BLOOD CAME. THINK OF IT! WE COULD INJECT OUR ARMIES WITH THE BLOOD OF

LOOK AT HIM, REID. I THINK HE'S GONE MAD WITH THIS THING!



















THE SCIENTISTS REACH THEIR PLANE SAFELY, AND TAKE OFF

WE'LL HAVE TO SPREAD THE ALARM JOHN ... PERHAPS SEND A COAST GUARD SHIP TO DESTROY THE THING!

DO YOU REALIZED THE

WE WILL BUT GENTLEMEN MOST TERRIFING PART OF THIS WHOLE TRAGEDY?



THAT MONSTER, WHEN IT SWALLOWED VALE, SWALLOWED HIS WHOLE SUPPLY OF SERUM! ENOUGH TO KEEP IT



OUT WHEN THEY REACHED THE NEAR-EST COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS.... NORTH? WE'RE YOU'RE TOO LATE. GENTLEMEN. WE'VE LEAVING FOR NEW YORK, RIGHT HAD REPORTS FOR HOURS. IT'S HEADING AWAY! NORTH, ATTACKING EVERYTHING IT SEES





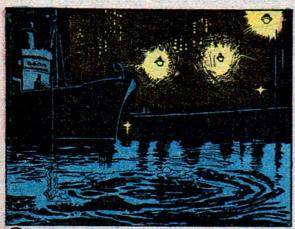
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, IN JOHN REID'S LABORATORY IN NEW YORK---

BUT JOHN, YOU'RE WORKING YOURSELF TO DEATH! THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE REPORT ABOUT A SNAKE IN THREE DAYS NOW, AND...

I STILL INSIST IT'S
COMING HERE! VALE'S
ORT LAST THOUGHTS WERE
OF COMING TO NEW YORK
TO SHOW THE WORLD, TO GET



M HOUR BEFORE DAWN OF THE NEXT DAY, ONLY THE MOAN OF THE DISTANT FOGHORN DISTURBS THE NIGHT. THE WATERS ARE BLACK, STILL AND SILENT. BUT LOOK AGAIN... NOW THE WATERS ARE SWIRLING, HEAVING...



SLOWLY THE BIG SNAKE DRAGS IT'S FANTASTIC LENGTH INTO THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN...WHERE MILLIONS OF UNSUSPECTING PEOPLE LIE SLEEPING!



NOW I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO WORK,
I MUST HAVE AN ANTIDOTE READY...
SOMETHING TO MAKE A LIVING
CREATURE SHRINK, THE OPPOSITE
OF VALE'S SERUM!

IF YOU MUST, JOHN, THEN WE'LL PITCH IN AND HELP!



NO SUPPENLY A MONTROUS, NIGHTMARISH HEAD RISES FROM THE DEPTHS!



LONELY POLICEMAN WALKS HIS BEAT NEAR THE WATERFRONT, SUDDENLY HE RAISES HIS EYES, AND.





IN NO TIME, THE GREAT PANIC IS ON!



POLICE ATTACK THE INVADER WITH EVERY WEAPON AT THEIR COMMAND....



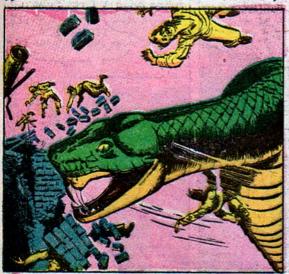
BUT THE GIGANTIC MONSTER IGNORES THEIR PUNY EFFORTS!



MACHINE GUNS ONLY SUCCEED IN ENRAGING THE SNAKE...







ON WASHINGTON, THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND IS IN A DEADLOCK ...

AND DOZENS OF MEN DIE IN THE HOPELESS BATTLE! THE RELENTLESS GIANT CRAWLS TOWARD MIDTOWN, CRUSHING ALL BEFORE IT. BY EVENING, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE JAM THE BRIDGES AND TUNNELS MANHATTAN ISLAND IS EVACUATED!



DAWN OF THE NEXT DAY REVEALS THE BIG SNAKE COILED AROUND THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, THE TALLEST STRUCTURE IN THE WORLD! IT'S MASSIVE UGLY HEAD WEAVING THROUGH THE SKY OVER MANHATTAN ... VICTORIOUS OVER THE WHOLE CITY!







ON JOHN REID'S LABORATORYA MOMEN-TOUS DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED.

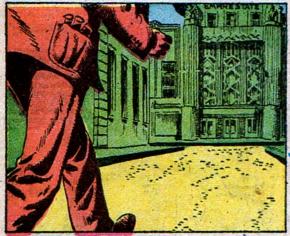
YOU CAN'T SACRIFICE THERE'S NO YOU'RE VALUABLE, PEOPLE ARE AND, YOU'RE VALUABLE, PEOPLE ARE AND YOU'RE VALUABLE, THERE IS ME, AND WHEN HE DOES THAT'S THE END OF IT. IT WILL SHRINK AWAY TO NOTHING!

WELL, GENTLEMEN... WITH MY POCKETS
FULL OF OUR SERUM, AND MY HEART
FULL OF HOPE... I BID YOU
GOODBYE!



STREETS OF MANHATTAN REACHING THE HUGE
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING...













TO THE WAITING WORLD



N HOUR PASSES, AND THEN A RADIO MESSAGE IS FLASHED 🕏 WO HOURS LATER, ON FIFTH AVENUE, A LITTLE BOY IN THE HAPPY CROWD SPOILS HIS MOTHER'S CELEBRATION ...

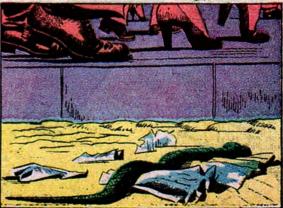


OND NEW YORKERS THRONG BACK INTO THEIR STREETS IN A HOLIPAY MOOD!



AND SO, FORGOTTEN IN A DUSTY GUTTER, THREE LIVES COME TO AN END .. PAUL VALE, BRILLIANT MAN WITH AN INSANE DREAM; JOHN REID, WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE CITY HE LOVED ... AND ALL THAT IS LEFT OF THE GIANT MONSTER THAT CAPTURED ACITY. THE BIG SNAKE!











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Photograph Snapshot